

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7274

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BC

SUBJ: ALLEGATIONS IN BOTSWANA MEDIA OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA

1. UNTIL NOVEMBER 12, BOTSWANA NEWS MEDIA (MADE UP OF GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS AND RADIO BOTSWANA) HAVE BEEN CARRYING STRAIGHT NEWS STORIES BASED ON REUTERS NEWS SERVICE ON ANGOLAN SITUATION. FIRST COVERAGE THAT WAS NOT STRAIGHT NEWS WAS IN NOVEMBER 12 ISSUE OF DAILY NEWS, AND CONSISTED OF TWO ITEMS ON PAGE 2 SUGGESTING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. FIRST IS TWO-COLUMN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY BY DAILY NEWS EDITOR, PAUL RANTAO, ENTITLED "WHY?" THRUST OF COMMENTARY IS THAT CONFLICT IN ANGOLA IS NOT SIMPLY RIVALRY BETWEEN THE THREE PARTIES, BUT A PART OF GREAT POWER CONFLICT. SECOND IS CARTOON BY LOCAL CARTOONIST SEISA WHICH DEPICTS US AND USSR GIANTS HANDING WEAPONS

TO SMALLER FIGURES REPRESENTING THREE ANGOLAN FACTIONS. CAPTION IS "HERE ARE YOUR TOYS BOYS, THE VERY LATEST."

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN PASSING BOTH RADIO BOTSWANA AND DAILY NEWS,
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AMONG OTHERS, WIRELESS FILE COMMENTARY ON ANGOLA, INCLUDING

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SEPTEMBER 23 OAU TOAST, THE NOVEMBER
5 STATEMENT BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY, AND MORE RE-
CENTLY WALTER CUTLERS NOVEMBER 11 TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THE SECRETARY'S NOVEMBER 10
PRESS CONFERENCE EXCERPTS ON ANGOLA. CHARGE ALSO FOLLOWED UP
ON NOVEMBER 13 BY CALLING BOTH RANTAO AND RADIO BOTSWANA NEWS
DIRECTOR, TO HIGHLIGHT THE LATEST U.S. STATEMENTS.
THOMSEN

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